

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/044,387	JONES ET AL.
	Examiner William T. Leader	Art Unit 1742

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to _____.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-36.
3. The drawings filed on 11 January 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 2002-01-11
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

1. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Etherington patent (6,231,743) is directed to a method of electroplating a metal onto a substrate such as a semiconductor device. The method includes measuring a first current flow in a first position apart from a cathode, an anode and the substrate; and plating onto the substrate. The Henri et al patent (6,440,291) is directed to a method for electrochemical processing such as deposition onto a semiconductor wafer. An entry voltage is applied to the substrate prior to immersion into the electrolyte, the substrate is immersed, determining that the voltage has passed a trigger voltage, waiting for a defined period of time, and then initiating electrochemical processing. The Lowe patent (6,495,018) is directed to electroplating method and apparatus. In performing the method a stream of electrolyte is directed to a target regions and the amount of reduction of ions in the region is controlled; the current flowing to the region is measured and controlled in dependence on an output of the measurement while the electrolyte is swirled.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
3. The prior art of record shows that the measurement and control of current and voltage in an electroplating process is known. However, the prior art does not teach or suggest a method for electroplating a metal from an electroplating solution

onto a conductive surface in which an electrical current is passed through the surface and adjacent solution, determining an electroplating voltage based on the current through the surface and adjacent solution, and maintaining the voltage while electroplating metal onto the surface. Nor does prior art teach or suggest an electroplating system including means for performing the recited process steps; or an electroplating system with a plating controller capable of carrying out the functions required by the process.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William T. Leader whose telephone number is 571-272-1245. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Thursdays and alternate Fridays, 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on 571-272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

WL
William Leader
June 21, 2004

ROY KING
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700